



NEWS RELEASE

CALIFORNIA SECRETARY OF STATE **BRUCE McPHERSON**

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Secretary of State Bruce McPherson Announces New Streamlined Electronic Filing System

Sacramento – Secretary of State Bruce McPherson today announced a new and free-of-charge online filing system for the disclosure of campaign contributions and expenditures by state candidates and committees.

Following through on his pledge to make government more innovative and user-friendly, Secretary McPherson launched this service to streamline the reporting process and to allow candidates and campaign committees to file contribution and expenditure reports, formerly Form 460, directly through the Secretary of State website.

“Information regarding candidates and campaign committees should be readily available to voters so they can make informed decisions,” said Secretary McPherson. “This free service will make the reporting process more efficient and allow candidates to easily disclose information to the public.”

Filers will be able to submit the most comprehensive campaign disclosure report, the Recipient Committee Campaign Statement, directly online. This report is used by candidates, officeholders and their controlled committees to make public the sources and amounts of campaign funds received and expenditures made. It is also used by political parties, ballot measure committees and general purpose committees (PACs) to disclose their contributions and expenditures. Over 67,000 digitized reports were submitted to the Secretary of State between January 1, 2003 and December 31, 2004. Once the data is entered and submitted, the information is immediately available to the public. In 2004, the Secretary of State’s website, <http://cal-access.ss.ca.gov>, received 18 million hits.

This new filing system is part of Cal-Online, a web-based filing system that allows candidates, committees and lobbying entities to submit disclosure reports required by California’s Political Reform Act (Proposition 9 in 1974).

Since 2000, campaign and lobbying entities have been required to file their disclosure reports in both electronic and duplicate paper formats if they met certain monetary thresholds. For candidates and campaign committees, contributions or expenditures of \$50,000 or more triggered the electronic filing requirement, while \$5,000 in payments triggered the lobbying electronic filing requirement.

“The online system for reporting lobbying payments has proven so successful that my office has eliminated the requirement to file paper copies. My ultimate goal is to have a totally paperless filing system for all campaign and lobbying registration and disclosure reports,” said Secretary McPherson.

-30-